

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO FLASH

SEC KISSINGER FLASH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2557

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2890

FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJ: FONMIN EBAN'S STATEMENT ON SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE

QUOTE

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE. THE SECRETARY WILL NOT BE COMING BACK TONIGHT. NOW THAT IS SOMETHING THAT I'S CAPABLE OF GRASPING INTELLECTUALLY, BUT NOT EMOTIONALLY. THE EXPERIENCE OF THE DAILY MEETINGS HAS BECOME ALMOST PART OF OUR LIVES. I WOULD TRUST TO THINK THAT AFTER MORE THAN 30 DAYS OF INTENSIVE ACTIVITY PROBABLY UNPRECEDENTED IN THE HISTORY OF DIPLOMATIC TECHNIQUES SECRETARY KISSINGER GOES BACK WITH ANOTHER VICTORY ON HIS BACK. IT ISN'T ONLY A VICTORY FOR AMERICAN STATESMANSHIP, IT IS I BELIEVE A VICTORY FOR THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IN THE WORLD. I BELIEVE THAT ISRAELI OPINION UNDERSTANDS THAT WHAT WE HAVE DONE IS A STEP TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE. BUT ONLY A STEP TOWARDS THAT FUTURE, A STEP THAT REQUIRES A CONTINUOUS AND UNCEASING PREOCCUPATION WITH

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FUTURE STEPS AND WITH FUTURE PROSPECTS. AND I'M CERTAIN

THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO COUNT ON THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNITED STATES, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO COUNT ON ITS UNEXAMPLED PRESTIGE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS ON THE PERSONAL INTEREST OF SECRETARY KISSINGER IN THE PROBLEMS AND ANXIETIES THAT CONTINUE TO BESET US. PERSONALLY I WOULD SAY THAT I HAVE FOUND THIS TO BE AN INTELLECTUAL EXPERIENCE OF THE GREATEST MAGNITUDE. I SHALL NEVER FORGET IT. I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW, WHEN WE WERE AT THE POINT OF DESPAIR, THE SECRETARY OF STATE CARRIED HIS ACTIVITIES BEYOND THE POINT OF DESPAIR WITH A RESILIENCE THAT WAS SOMETIMES ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF. AND JUST WHEN THINGS SEEMED TO BE COLLAPSING A NEW EFFORT OF WILL AND NEW EFFORT OF CONFIDENCE BROUGHT THE NEGOTIATION BACK TO LIFE. MY FINAL OBSERVATION IS ON THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT THIS HAS TAKEN AND PERHAPS MANY IN ISRAEL AND IN AMERICA AND IN THE WORLD MAY BE SURPRISED IF I SAY THAT THIS HAS BEEN A REMARKABLY RAPID NEGOTIATION, BECAUSE WHEN I RECALL THE GAP BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES AT THE BEGINNING OF THESE TALKS -- FIRST OF ALL WHEN WE MET IN WASHINGTON IN MARCH AND THEN LATE APRIL WHEN THE OPERATIVE STAGE BEGAN -- IF ANYBODY HAD SAID THAT A GAP AS GREAT AS THAT COULD BE BRIDGED WITHIN 30 DAYS I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT TO BE WILDLY OPTIMISTIC. FINALLY, ON THE HUMAN NOTE, PEOPLE WHO WORK TOGETHER IN SUCH ENTERPRISES EMERGE FROM THEM STRENGTHENED IN THEIR FRIENDSHIPS AND I BELIEVE PERSONALLY THAT THIS HAS HAPPENED BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND THOSE ON THE ISRAELI SIDE WITH WHOM HE HAS WORKED AND THAT THAT IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT DIMENSION NOT ONLY FOR OUR OWN LIVES BUT ALSO FOR THE WORK THAT OUR GOVERNMENTS WILL HAVE TO DO TOGETHER. SECRETARY KISSINGER, MRS KISSINGER, WE WISH YOU SAFE JOURNEY AND WE HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT EVEN IF WE DON'T SEE YOU TONIGHT, NOT MANY DAYS OR WEEKS WILL ELAPSE BEFORE WE SEE YOU HERE AGAIN.

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